

Record

THE BAPTIST

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Planter: multihousing outreach crucial

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi churches that aren't involved in ministries to multihousing communities are passing up one of the largest fields white unto harvest, according to Chris McNairy, church planter missionary with the North American Mission Board in Atlanta.

"Many multihousing communities easily have 2,000 residents or more. When the International Mission Board discovers a new people group of 2,000, what do they do? They get a missionary to go there. We have to recognize the people groups right here in our midst and minister to them.

"The most challenging evangelism frontiers for Mississippi Baptists are going to be in non-traditional areas such as multihousing communities," he said.

McNairy was the featured speaker at Lake Tiak O'Khata resort near Louisville on February 7, during one of a series of multihousing ministry regional conferences being held around the state.

The Arkansas native and former Memphis pastor pointed out that 60% of the unchurched in America — which he estimated to be about 120 million people — are in non-traditional areas left almost untouched by Baptist ministries:

- Private apartments.
- Condominiums.
- Community associations.
- Manufactured housing.
- Public housing.
- Senior housing.

"Multihousing communities encompass all socio-economic levels. There was a time when residents lived in apartments and manufactured homes because they had no other choice. While this may be true in public housing communities, it is not true in most other cases. Residents are choosing multihousing because of their lifestyles, for convenience, and because they prefer it.

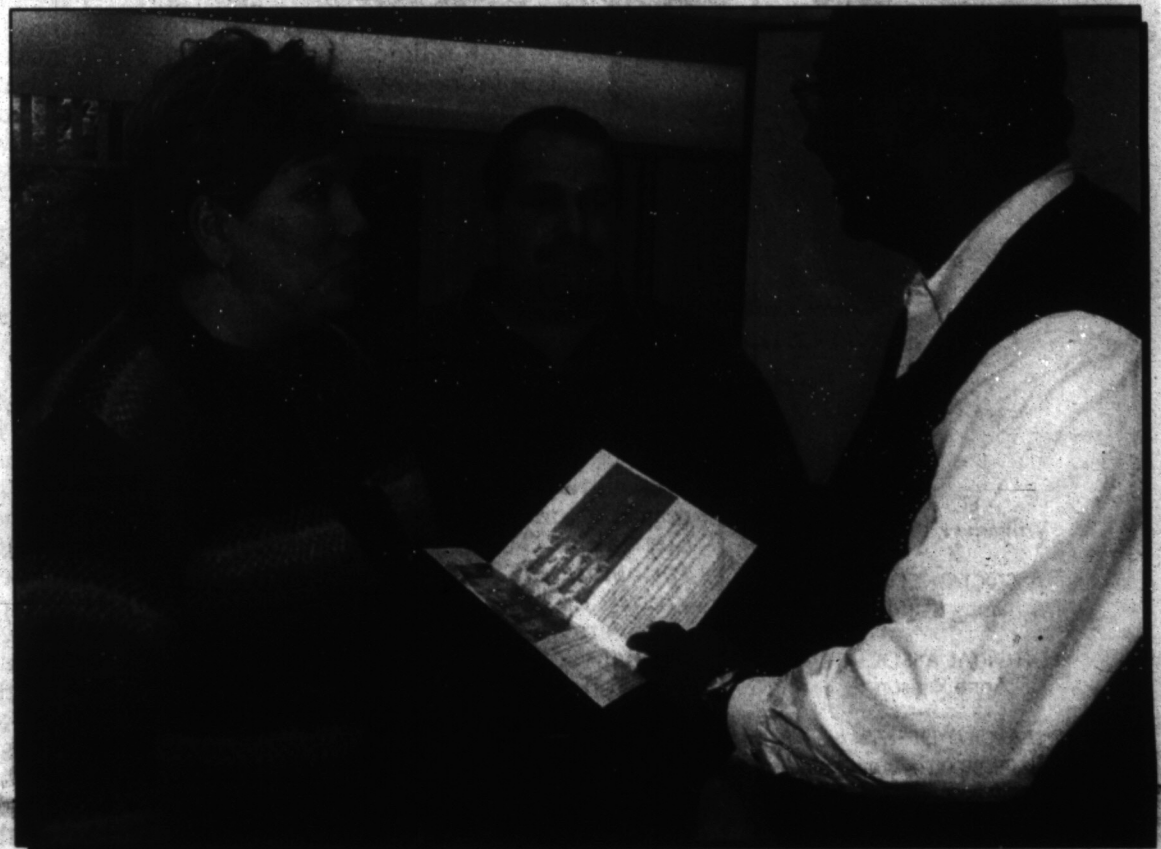
"Less than 10% of all multihousing residents are 'churched,' which is defined as attending worship services at least three times per month. We're not going to reach these areas with traditional missionaries and ministries," McNairy said.

One of the best ways to reach multihousing communities is through the planting of new churches inside those communities, he stressed.

Ed Deuschle, director of church planting for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), agrees with NAMB's advocacy of new church plants in multihousing communities and is in the middle of a major multihousing ministry push for Mississippi Baptists in 2004.

"Approximately 487,350 of the state's two million unchurched population live in multihousing communities, and 90% of those people are lost," Deuschle said.

The goal of the multihousing conferences in Mississippi is to heighten awareness, equip lay church planting teams, and provide resources to laypeople to begin multihousing ministries by intentionally targeting the unchurched, according to Deuschle.



MULTIHOUSING INTEREST — Chris McNairy (right), church planter missionary with the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, discusses multihousing ministry resources with Tim (center) and Lori Burt, members of South Louisville Church, Louisville, after a February 7 multihousing ministry conference at Lake Tiak O'Khata resort near Louisville. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The MBCB Church Planting Department is sponsoring the conferences, which are being financially supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

"The greatest myth about multihousing church planting is that it violates the law. Most likely, the real issue is that churches have never tried innovative strategy. While it is not feasible to plant churches in every multihousing community, there are thousands of communities where it is feasible. Private owners may do as they wish with their property, and it is up to residents to choose whether or not to participate.

"Even in government-owned or subsidized communities, resident councils and managers can choose to work with religious groups. Multihousing church planting is often difficult because Christians do not take the time to build relationships that open doors," McNairy pointed out.

McNairy offered seven steps for church planting in multihousing communities:

- Pray and seek the will of the Lord.
- Secure proper denominational endorsement and needed resources.
- Build solid relationships with owners and managers.
- Conduct surveys and get to know the community's leaders.
- Determine church planting approach.
- Enlist and train key leaders and ministry teams.
- Carry out powerful initial evangelistic events.

"Follow through, or you're through," he cautioned.

To grow much-needed multihousing ministries around the state, McNairy urged Mississippi Baptists to:

- Pray on a regular basis specifically for reaching people in multihousing communities.
- Commit to being a part of a ministry team at a specific multihousing community.
- Commit to teaching a Bible study at a multihousing community.
- Share the need with other Christians who are unaware or not sensitive to multihousing needs.
- Work to recycle materials, equipment, and other resources from their churches that can be used in multihousing churches.
- Develop and maintain Scripture/tract provision ministry for multihousing communities.

"The (multihousing community) ministry is verifiable. The doors of opportunity are not only open but removed," McNairy said. "God is already at work across North America, and lay leaders and teams will be an important part of what God is doing."

A multihousing survey form and a number of other resource materials are available to interested churches.

For more information on multihousing ministries in Mississippi, contact Deuschle at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3224 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 224. E-mail: edeuschle@mbcb.org.

McNairy can be contacted at (770) 939-1766. E-mail: cmcnairy@namb.net.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

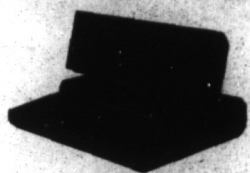
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Coming soon to our shores

The lower house of the French Parliament voted overwhelmingly on February 10 to outlaw in public schools Muslim headscarves as a "visible" display of religion. The upper chamber of the Parliament will take up the bill in September, where it is expected to pass handily and become law.

American Christians would be naive to believe such a prohibition has little to do with them.

By a vote of 494-36, French legislators proscribed not only Muslim headscarves but any manifestation of religious belief in schools — including but not limited to Christian crosses, Jewish symbols, depictions of Hindu gods, and any other items that have anything to do with religion.

The French aren't the only ones jumping on this bandwagon. Belgian lawmakers are mulling a proposal that would expand a religious symbols ban in that country to include not only school children but also government employees. Sentiment is growing in Germany to institute such laws. Elements within the European Union organization are also agitating for a stringent, Union-wide ban on religious symbols.

"The decision to ban conspicuous signs in school is a decision that respects our history, our customs, and our values. To do nothing would be irresponsible. It would be wrong," said French President Chirac.

Several news media outlets have reported that the expelling of French schoolgirls who refuse to comply has already begun, even though the ban is not yet the law of the land. Secularist educators apparently feel they have been given a free hand to begin the purge. So far, the government has looked the other way.

What has this got to do with American Christians? The answer is that we're really

not that far behind the Europeans — and the Europeans' successful tactics are certain to be adopted by the secularists and religion haters in the U.S.

An anti-religion California physician was the victor last year in a ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, which declared that schoolchildren's constitutional rights are being violated by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance phrase, "One nation, under God."

In Alabama — our nearest neighbor to the east in what is still euphemistically called the Bible Belt — the state Supreme Court chief justice has been removed from office over his display of the Ten Commandments in a state office building. The display itself is gone, too.

In many parts of this great country, elementary school students can receive a zero for writing a class

assignment on the subject of Jesus. One child caused an uproar on Valentines Day this year when she gave her schoolmates a bag filled with candy and a Scripture verse.

While not a prevalent policy in Mississippi, many school districts across the nation will send a child home if he/she wears a garment with Christian symbols, thus putting the name of Jesus on a par with street gangs and Satan worshippers. Teachers must be careful not to mention anything in the classroom about religion, lest they be hounded from their jobs by the likes of the American Civil Liberties Union.

There are undoubtedly good, solid stories where Americans have stood up to the

"OH NO, I'D SAY WE'RE JUST ABOUT AS LOYAL TO OUR DENOMINATION AS WE ALWAYS WERE. WE DON'T ACTUALLY ATTEND, YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT OUR HEARTS ARE STILL THERE!"

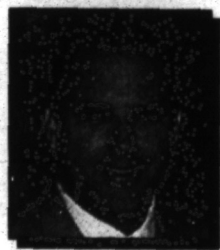


secularists and religion-haters and won, but that's not the direction the country is going as a whole. The secularists and religion-haters can only be emboldened by the success of their European counterparts.

What a tiring, useless battle for our constitutional and human rights! The forces arrayed against us are formidable, but it behooves us to remember that we are not fighting against the forces of this world (Eph. 6:12). Rather, we are at war with Satan himself. Thank God we have weapons that are out of this world, too (2 Cor. 10:3-6).

It's up to each one of us to join this fight. After all, if God be with us, who can stand against us?

GUEST OPINION:



Show the way

By Will McRaney

Associate Professor of Evangelism
New Orleans Seminary

She described God with impersonal language, yet when asked about what God requires of us, she used personal language to describe God. She did not believe in absolute truth, but in an individual absolute truth, even if the respective truths are in direct contradiction to each other.

How then is the church and, in particular, individual Christians supposed to respond to the Lindsays, the confused who occupy every single neighborhood in America? Lindsay may seem "out there," but in reality, most of the people who walk the streets and many who occupy our church rolls are confused as well. Please take a moment right now and pray for Lindsay that she may come to know and grow in Christ.

We live in a postmodern

context in which people no longer are looking to the institutional church for answers to their deep spiritual questions and needs as their grandparents and parents did. Therefore, of the three major categories of evangelism — attraction, projection, and media — projection strategies will have to play an increasing role: Like Jesus depended upon His disciples, the church will become increasingly dependent upon its body to communicate its message outside the walls of the church.

For most Christians, evangelism is neither a positive word nor a part of their lifestyle. However, personal evangelism strangely may be the way out of the decline and the way to expand God's glory in America. As former Speaker of the House

Tip O'Neal said, "all politics are local." With the church suffering from amnesia and those outside the church not finding enough reasons to search for God in our churches, one Christian person telling a searching person where to find God, hope, and purpose may be the church's best hope for a brighter earthly future.

Sharing Christ can be fruitful and rewarding, yet it will be ever adapting to the changing culture. After conducting hundreds of interviews with lost people, it was easy to determine that the cries of the confused are many and varied.

The lost people reflect many of the concerns and views of those around them. However, there is a common cry of the confused. It is found in the title of a song by the pop group Styx entitled, Show Me the Way. Our personal evangelism to the confused, such as Lindsay, will involve showing the way — not simply telling the way.

McRaney, former minister of youth and college at First Church, Starkville, is author of the 2003 book, *The Art of Personal Evangelism: Sharing Jesus in a Changing Culture* (Broadman & Holman). His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Challengers join commissioning service

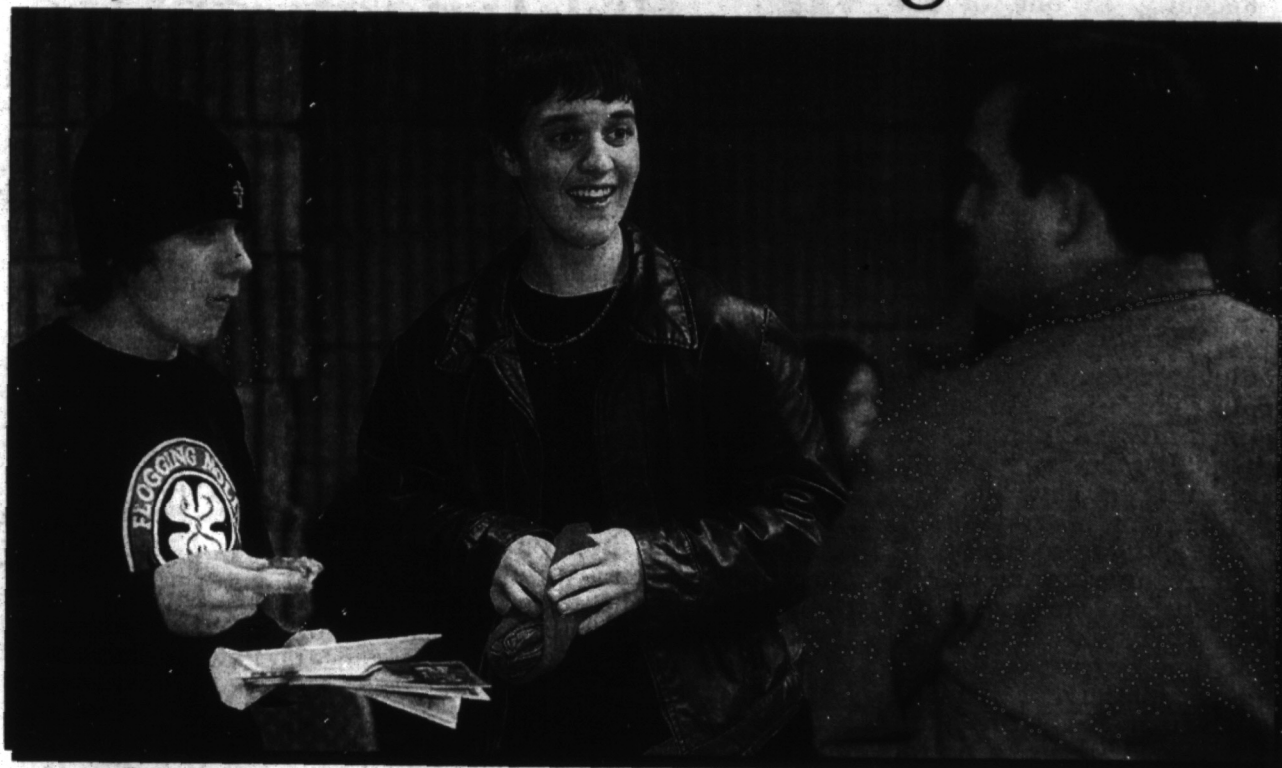
GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP) — More than 700 Challengers from across the country, along with about 400 guests from the community, joined in a commissioning celebration for 59 new North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries Feb. 7 at the Gatlinburg (Tenn.) Convention Center.

For the first time ever, the celebration was held in conjunction with the annual National Challengers Rally, a weekend event designed to encourage and mobilize high school boys who participate in the church mission education organization. Challengers is sponsored by NAMB.

Among the NAMB missionaries being commissioned were church planters, church planter strategists, inner-city ministry center directors, associational missionaries, and collegiate evangelism specialists.

The focus of the event, however, was as much on encouraging the audience to respond to the call of God on their own lives as it was on lifting up the missionaries who had already made that commitment. Before the service, the missionaries joined other ministries at booths in a "marketplace" designed to allow the young men to consider where God might be calling them to serve.

Through commitment cards and an invitation at the close of the service, 68 people committed to either short-term or full-time missions service through NAMB. Eighty-eight committed to "be on mission where I live," 145 said they would pray for NAMB missionaries, 30 rededicated themselves to follow Jesus as Lord, and six made professions of faith in Christ. The next morning, additional commitments included 11 who said they had been called to serve as a missionary or pastor.



MISSIONS TALK — Two Challengers visit with Kevin Marsico (right), a church planting specialist with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, during the Missions Marketplace at the National Challengers Rally in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Marsico and 58 other missionaries were commissioned as part of the weekend rally. Challengers, a church mission education organization for high school boys, is sponsored by the North American Mission Board. (BP photo by John Swain)

Paul Gotthardt, a church starter in Las Vegas, shared how God gave him a passion for ministry and people when he was called in 1995.

"Some of you today might be in a similar situation where you're starting to feel the tug and the pull of God possibly towards ministry," he said, later adding, "Don't rush the call, but when God does [call] respond passionately with all your heart. I guarantee you it will be the ride of a lifetime. Enjoy the joys of the journey."

Heather McIver, who works in campus ministry in Syracuse, N.Y., noted that Jesus never promised it would be easy — but it would be worth it. "It might cost you something to go and

follow God with your whole heart, but the rewards you gain are just incredible," she said.

Randy Singer, special assistant and chief counsel for the North American Mission Board, told the Challengers that if God was calling them to ministry they had a lot in common with the prophet Jeremiah.

"Most scholars believe Jeremiah was about 16 [when he was called]," Singer said. "If you've been called tonight to be a preacher ... don't insult God by saying, 'I can't do it.' He knows you can't do it. That's why He's called you. You can do it by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that way God gets the glory."

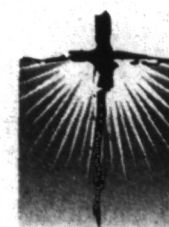
God has a unique purpose in mind for every man and woman, Singer said, a point he illustrated humorously by demonstrating a Spirooli — a fruit and vegetable slicer he discovered through a television infomercial.

"This is a machine that's designed," he said to laughs from

the crowd. "It's got a destiny. It's got a destiny peeling apples."

Similarly, he said, a "melon baller" is only good at making melon balls, while an ice cream scoop makes embarrassingly large melon balls but terrific scoops of ice cream.

"All of these things are designed for a particular purpose. Here's what I want you to understand. God designed you for a particular purpose," Singer said. "You are unique. You are a masterpiece. You have a destiny. You have all the things necessary to get the job done. You have everything necessary to answer this call, and no one else can do it as well as you can."



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BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

Record

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Missions video available

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — A video update on North American Mission Board (NAMB) efforts to reach the United States and Canada is available as a free Internet download. The segment is intended for use during Southern Baptists' March 7-14 NAMB Emphasis, which includes the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, the North American Mission Study, and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The video, available through a link on the www.AnnieArmstrong.com website, features NAMB President Robert E. (Bob) Record and includes his comments on cutbacks in the appointment of new missionaries caused by a lack of funds. "As I speak to you today, nearly 200 missionary positions are vacant — most of them because of budget shortfalls either at NAMB or at our state Baptist convention partners," Record says on the video. "There are plenty of Christians who feel called to serve and are ready to go, but we have stopped recruiting for missionary positions until the funds arrive to address this shortfall." In 2003 the Annie Armstrong Offering Goal was a record \$49,650,279, but short of the \$53 million goal. The goal for 2004 is \$54 million. One hundred percent of the offering supports missionaries and their ministries. "I thank God for the missionary heroes who are serving on the front lines, meeting needs and sharing Christ with those who need Him most," Record says, "but these missionaries are depending on each of us to provide the financial resources that will let them continue their ministry." The video is viewable online and is available for download in a high-quality MPEG format suitable for presentation in churches. The www.AnnieArmstrong.com website also includes a variety of other resources for churches participating in the North American Missions Emphasis.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi native Elisha Tabb is appointed by the Home Mission Board. A native of Terry, Tabb is a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Louisville in Kentucky. She and her husband will work in St. Louis, Mo., in family and church service.

20 years ago

U.S. President Ronald Reagan and members of his staff and cabinet prepare for a "full-court press" during February to have Congress pass an amendment to the Constitution restoring oral prayer in public school classrooms, according to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

50 years ago

W. Wilson Turner, administrator of the Louisiana Baptist Hospital in Alexandria, accepts the position of administrator of the Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson. The Baptist Hospital in Jackson is a 256-bed facility owned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

AB survey underway in states

DALLAS (BP) — Data to help church staff search committees provide competitive salaries and benefits to prospective candidates currently is being compiled by 41 Baptist state conventions in cooperation with the Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention. The state conventions began mailing out surveys for the 2004 compensation study in January to churches to be returned to their state convention by April 15. Churches that did not receive a survey can access it at the Annuity Board's website, www.absbc.org.

After the April deadline, the statistical information will be compiled and the survey results will be available in June.

"This valuable study will compile customized salary and benefit information for several positions within a church," said Bob Henry, the Annuity Board's church marketing director. "Using the demographic information of a church, the [computer] program will allow the user to identify the average salary and benefits package for a specific position and even within a geographic area."

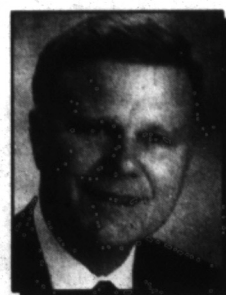
The program can access a report that provides data for churches of similar attendance, membership and budget.

THE "FORGOTTEN" JESUS

Recently, in one of our churches, a dad was sharing with me an incident that happened in their family. The pastor encouraged the kids to memorize verses and then upon successful completion of their memory work he would often times give them a quarter. The son in the family learned and quoted John 3:16. His younger four-year-old sister Janet would not be outdone. She too wanted to quote John 3:16. Given the opportunity to say it, she began, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only forgotten Son..." and continued on with her recitation.

Isn't it amazing how little children can unknowingly make a mistake and at the same time bring great insight into the matter! It sounded right to her and sadly, more and more it seems to be the truth — God's only forgotten Son! He is, of course, forgotten by the lost. People who are lost in their sins think that so many other things in this world are more important than Jesus. There are so many issues, goals, achievements, attainments, and acquisitions that come ahead of Him. So, in their scheme of life and thinking, He is God's only forgotten Son!

One day I was visiting with a dear old man who was facing serious surgery and the anticipated prognosis of his condition was not good. This man was in his early 80s and I had been told by some people who knew him that he was not a Christian and they wanted me to visit him and share the Lord with him. I met him on the night before he was to have surgery the following morning. The man was congenial, happy to have me stop



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

by, and was open to the fact that he was not a Christian. Yet, he unknowingly revealed his hard, crusty heart as he talked with me. I said to him, "God sure has been good to you in giving you the family that you have and letting you live all these years in good health. Jesus loved you so much that He died on the cross for you and wants to come into your heart and be your Savior even now."

The old man's look turned less friendly and his attitude became rather belligerent. He said to me, "Preacher, in all my life God ain't never done nothing for me! So, why should He start now?" At that moment I was shocked, somewhat dumbfounded, and felt pain in my heart for a man who had lived over eight decades and actually thought that God had done nothing for him. He had lived so long without Jesus and had turned his back on Him so many times that literally, in what were to be the "sunset months" of his life, Jesus had become God's only forgotten Son!

Sometimes Jesus is God's only forgotten Son to the laborers, those of us who labor in the vineyard of our Lord. We forget who He is, what He has done, what He is capable of doing right now, and we also forget that without Him we can do nothing! We work so hard pumping up our spiritual muscles trying to do even more for Him,

when in reality we can do nothing and He must do everything!

It was our Lord Jesus who, just before He left to return to Heaven, said, "And ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Jesus promised His disciples power — power to serve; power to witness; power to stand up against Heaven's foes; and power to move forward with Kingdom advances. Power! He never asked us to do it on our own, but He asked us to let Him do it through us. When we do, we experience Heaven's power and God's supernatural power that flows through Jesus Christ our Lord! If and when we do it all by ourselves Jesus becomes to us, who labor in His harvest, God's only forgotten Son!

Sometimes He is God's only forgotten Son to the lonely. Elijah was not the only person who ever lived and felt as though he was the only one who was staying faithful to God. In his words,

he said, "Even I only remain a prophet of the Lord." God said, "That's not true. I have thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal." One thing is for sure: regardless of what you may be doing and regardless of how you may feel that you are the only one in the battle, Jesus continues to be God's great warrior! He has never and will not ever leave you alone in the battle! His promise is that He will never leave us nor forsake us!

Some of you may have lost a companion and there are times when you feel so lonely. Some of you may have had to move away from your family, your church, and the great strength of the comfort zone of God's people, and you feel so lonely. Just remember He is there with you and do not allow Him to be God's only forgotten Son. Do you remember how Jesus characterized the coming of the Spirit, His very presence with us continually? He said, "I will give you another comforter." Jesus can dispel our loneliness.

Janet, thank you for wanting to share God's Word. Thank you for learning and quoting John 3:16. Also, I'm thankful that as a four-year-old, you even messed up the words so that you could straighten up some of our hearts! He is God's only begotten Son and may He not be to any of us God's only forgotten Son!

Directions

College and Seminary News

Marshall Ramsey, nationally-syndicated Clarion Ledger cartoonist and Pulitzer Prize finalist, will be the guest speaker at the yearly meeting of the Library Associates Friends group February 29 at 2 p.m., in the Learning Resources Center, Speed Library, Mississippi College. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free. For more information, call (601) 925-3433.

RESOLUTION

We, as members of New Home Baptist Church of Smith County, Mississippi, do hereby resolve by the authority of God's Holy Word, that we without any reservation oppose the concept of legal marriage between persons of the same sex.

We furthermore resolve to aid financially any legitimate Southern Baptist effort relevant to this issue.

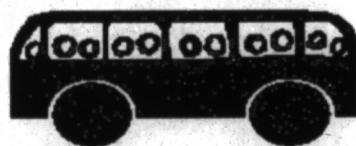
We furthermore resolve to proclaim our opposition publicly and politically by publishing this Resolution in The Baptist Record, and by sending copies to Senator Thad Cochran, Senator Trent Lott; Representative Chip Pickering; Senator Billy Thames, and Representative Bo Eaton.

This resolution was submitted and approved by New Home Baptist Church of Smith County, Mississippi on December 3, 2003.

Rev. Ron Swindle, Pastor
Cary D. Stringer, Clerk

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Evangelism Bible Conferences 2004

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~ Speakers ~

Emir Caner, Ergun Caner, Junior Hill, Randy Johnson, Alan Kilgore
Jim McNiel, Ted Traylor, Albert Wilkerson and James Messer

~ Music ~

Phil Willis - Music Director, Bible Tones, Endless Praise, Paid in Full
Sons of the Father, Heavenly Hearts and the Wade Baptist Church Choir

~ Schedule of Services ~

Sunday Morning 8:00 and 10:30 AM • Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Monday thru Wednesday Noon Services 12:00 - 12:55 PM • Free Meal • Speaker: James Messer

Monday thru Wednesday Evening Services begin at 6:30 PM

Children's Worship Services Sunday thru Wednesday with Director John Yates

~ Other Conferences in 2004 ~

August 1-4 • EBC Crestview FL • Pastor Alan Kilgore

September 12-15 EBC Florence MS • Pastor Dwight Smith

October 24-27 • Cypress Shores BC • Mobile AL • Pastor Randy Johnson

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 19, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Witnessing Through Media

AWARDS ENTRY FORM

PURPOSE: The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN: April 30-May 1, 2004 — Awards Banquet on Friday, April 30, 7-9 p.m. Workshops on Saturday, May 1, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

WHERE: First Baptist Church, Christian Life Center, 431 N. State St., Jackson

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Due to diversity in the types of production equipment and personnel, the MBIB Steering Committee has developed two award divisions. One award for VIDEO (broadcast or nonbroadcast) and one award for RADIO in Categories 1-3 in each division.

1. BEST PROGRAM
 - A. MISSIONS / EVANGELISM
 - B. CHURCH MUSICALS
 - C. COMMUNITY SERVICE (i.e., human interest, sports, and others)
2. BEST SPOT
3. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY
4. BEST USE OF WEB SITE

Division I

Small budget projects using volunteers as well as in-house production facilities.

Division II

Medium to large budget projects using paid staff or outside production house. This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.

ENTRY PROCEDURE:

1. Each entry must include:
 - An entry form, description and fee.
 - A \$10 fee per entry (Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)
2. A separate entry form and fee is required for each category entered. Duplicate the entry form, if necessary.
3. Entry fee does not apply to workshop registration fee.
4. Submit video program and spot entries on 1/2 inch VHS in SP mode and normal audio only. Submit address of Web site on entries. Submit audio program and spot entries on audio cassette tape.
5. Submit each program entry on a separate tape and clearly label with:
 - Name of Local Church
 - Title of Entry
 - Category Name
 - Original Running Time
6. The program should have been aired or viewed prior to March 1, 2004.
7. The judges reserve the right to move an entry to an appropriate category, add or delete categories.
8. All questions must be answered on entry form.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:

Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than March 26, 2004, 4:45 p.m.

For more info: Contact Communication Services at 601-292-3378 or 1-800-748-1651

ENTRY FORM

Entry Title _____
Category Name _____
Division I or II _____ Original Running Time _____
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A
teenager's pledge
to abstain from
alcohol

Contents

Worthy of Your Calling

Session One

Alcohol and Sex

Session Two

Alcohol and Violence

Session Three

Alcohol and the Media

Session Four

Alcohol and the Christian

Session Five

Say "Buzz Off" to Alcohol

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The cost per book is \$1 to help cover the cost of printing. You may order by calling

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1-800-748-1651 ext. 329.

You can order by E-mail at rwood@mbcb.org.

Christian Action Commission, Inc.

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Church Facilities

Furnishings Workshop



March 23, 2004
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony
Parkway
Madison, Mississippi

The conference is for pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning committees, business administrators and maintenance/property personnel.

For more info, contact Keith Gordon or Kay McDonnell, Church Building Services (PLD Dept.), PO Box 530 Jackson MS 39205-0530
Phone: 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305 in Jackson
Fax number: 601-714-7426
E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

BIBLE DRILL CAMP

August 5-7, 2004

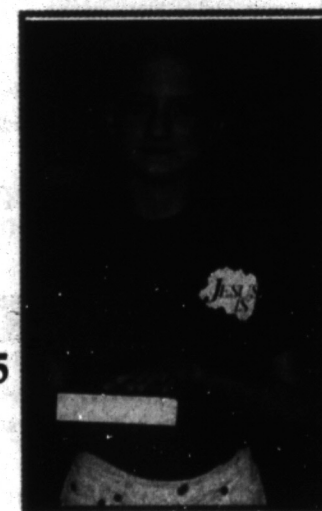
Central Hills Baptist Retreat

For: All children who have completed grades 3-6 (Bible Drill Camp is open to any church group whether they have Bible Drill at their church or not.)

Cost: \$90 • Registration: 1:30 p.m., Thursday, August 5



For more information about the camp program contact Don Hicks, camp pastor, at 601-292-3287 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651, or by e-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org. For information about reservations or the retreat center contact Jim Ray, retreat manager, at 662-289-9730 or by E-mail at jray@mbcb.org.



Camp Activities include:

Bible study
Scripture memorization
Bible Drill skills
Worship
Time with missionaries
Flag ceremonies
Swimming
Canoeing
Horseback riding
Rifle range (safety and marksmanship)

OUTREACH

TEAMS THAT WIN

One evening can change your entire outlook about outreach



G.R.O.W

MONDAY

April 19, 2004

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Poplar Springs Drive BC

Meridian

TUESDAY

April 20, 2004

6:30-8:30 p.m.

FBC

Biloxi

Outreach Teams That Win: G.R.O.W.

"G.R.O.W." is based on Dr. Tidwell's phenomenally successful outreach approach. Under this proven-effective plan church members are asked to commit just one evening each month to outreach... with several different avenues from which they can choose. You will not want to miss this opportunity!



No preregistration required
No cost for the conference
No child care provided

LifeWay Bookstore materials will be available for purchase.

For more information, please contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 668-3800 in Jackson, or E-mail: jctennning@mbcb.org.

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY Seeking Summer Employees

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is accepting applications for employment for the 2004 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service. The assembly begins its summer program May 8, 2004, and continues until August 8, 2004. The Gulfshore schedule features Senior Adult, Single, Youth, Music, Family and Adult Leadership Conferences. It is hoped that 2004 attendance will be the largest ever for Gulfshore.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people from various places in Mississippi and to develop meaningful and personal friendships with these people.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Simmons February 23 through March 8 on various college campuses across Mississippi, where he will be interviewing prospective employees. The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Monday	(Feb. 23)	Itawamba Comm. College BSU	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
		Blue Mountain BSU Center	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	(Feb. 24)	Northwest MS Comm. College BSU Ctr	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
		Ole Miss BSU Center	3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	(Feb. 25)	Delta State BSU Center	11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Thursday	(Feb. 26)	Northeast MS Community College BSU	10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
		Mississippi State BSU Center	3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday	(Mar. 1)	Meridian Community College BSU	11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
		East Central Comm. College BSU Ctr	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 2)	Hinds Comm. College BSU Center	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
		Co-Lin College BSU Center	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 3)	Pearl River Community College BSU	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
		Jones Jr. College BSU Center	2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 4)	William Carey College BSU	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
		University of Southern MS BSU Center	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday	(Mar. 8)	Mississippi College - BSU Center	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 9)	Jackson County Comm. College	12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For additional information about an interview, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore, 228-452-7261, or E-mail: fsimmons@mbcb.org, or contact the BSU Director on the college campus in your respective area of the state.

For a staff application and other information write to Summer Employment, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299 or visit the website www.mbc.org

The Many Hats We Wear 2004 Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Conference



April 19-20

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Speaker: Johnnie Haines
Music & Worship Lisa Leavell

For more info, contact Kay McDonnell, Pastor/Leadership Development, at 601-292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651, or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.



Pray this day for...

February 20 – March 4, 2004

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"PRAYER - Why do most Christians do so little of what God deems essential?"

Larry R. Thompson, Founder of Watchman Prayer Ministry

A Luguru lady, R, in Tanzania is very friendly to missionary Carolyn Dixon, but hasn't been interested in spiritual things. However, her husband and younger brother ask Carolyn questions about the Bible and salvation. One day K asked, "Tell me how I can worship God." Pray that their whole household will be saved.

There are few outreaches to the upper class in Sao Paulo, Brazil. New missionary Cynthia Morgan asks: "Please pray with us as we build relationships with churches and pastors across the city, that the Lord would spark a church planting movement throughout the upper class. The center of Sao Paulo is especially void of evangelical churches.

This year, would you commit to praying for the Kui of Thailand daily? Pray for new ministries and new house churches to be started in unreachd Kui villages throughout Northeast Thailand. Please pray that the Lord would call lay leaders to lead these new groups in 2004.

Please pray for the new "preaching point" in the Bam Region of northern Burkina Faso. This is an area where there is little evangelical witness. Pray that this work will reach many new believers for Jesus Christ and will be instrumental in starting a Church Planting Movement in that area.

A Last Frontier country is currently having political problems. One 72-year-old pastor reported that members of the rival party visited him, demanding either \$330 to fund their campaign, or 20 of their youths to join them in fighting. Ask God to show the pastor what to do in this situation and that Christians in that country will support his decision.

It is estimated that 80 million Japanese go to a Shinto shrine or a Buddhist temple to pray for good luck and buy charms for protection during the first few days of a new year. In January 2004, Christians in Togane went prayerwalking and prayed for the salvation of those in spiritual darkness. Ask God to answer their prayers.

Betty and George Petty of Jones, La., serve as Missions Service Corps missionaries. Pray for prayer support as they strive to begin a new work in an unreachd area. Pray that people will be receptive and willing to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS 3rd-5th; (2) Pray for the 54 people in Esquei, Argentina, who have been studying "The Purpose-Driven Life." Praise God that they are eagerly sharing testimonies with others about its effectiveness in their lives.

For: (1) AMD Dialog, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 10 a.m., 26th - noon, 27th (MS); (2) The Zulu Team of South Africa ask us to "Pray that this work in Lesotho will get off the ground and that we can get some of the old members to come back. We also need a pastor for this work."

Randy McWhorter of Fresno, Ca., directs the Prayer and Evangelism Division of the California Southern Baptist Convention. Pray for effective means of equipping leaders to reach over 30 million lost people. Pray for language barriers to fall so that every person in California may have an opportunity to respond to the gospel.

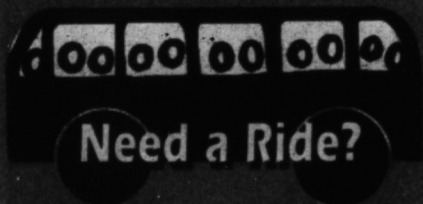
For: (1) Churchmen Retreat, Parkway BC, Clinton, noon, 20th - noon, 21st (CM); (2) Christian Performing Arts Festival, FBC, Madison, 6 p.m., 20th - 8 p.m. (D, FM); (3) Bi-vocational Ministers Evangelism Conference, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, 5:30 p.m., 20th - 2 p.m., 21st (P/LD).

Even in Tibet, thousands are accessing the world through the Internet. One young Tibetan referred to the web as "a treasure chest" that connects him to a whole new world. Pray that Christians will be diligent in using this tool to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Leslie Brown of Louisville, Ky, coordinates English classes and a ladies' fellowship for international students from 100 countries through the International BBA at the University of Louisville. Pray for students and families to have hearts and minds open to the truth of the gospel.

For: (1) State Keyboard Festival, Woodland Hills BC, Jackson, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (CM); (2) Please pray today for Governor Tofoya Tulafofo of American Samoa (southwestern Pacific Ocean); (3) Also pray for President Nestor Kirchner of Argentina (southern South America).

Join us for our historical BUS TOUR April 12-17, 2004



Trip Itinerary:
Depart from and return to
Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Historical Destinations:

- Missionary Union, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
- North American Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.
- International Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
- Missionary Learning Center, Richmond, Va.
- Lottie Moon Memorial, Crewe, Va.
- Seventh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.
- Annie Armstrong Memorial, Baltimore, Md.

The estimated cost is \$375 for transportation and double occupancy lodging.

Extra money will be needed for meals, etc.

Please contact the Mississippi WMU office to receive a registration form.

Mississippi WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
tanderson@mbcb.org
601-292-3317 or
1-800-748-1651, Ext. 317.

Family Week

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Mon., July 5 – Thurs., July 8

"Kingdom Families: Making a Difference"

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- Brian Neal & Band, Monticello
- Tim Morrison, Monticello Chalk Art/Music
- FBC, DeRidder, La. Puppets/Mime/Clowns

EVENTS:

- Ice Cream/Watermelon Fellowship
- Night Swimming
- Bar-b-que cookout
- Afternoons will be FREE

Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department for more info:
601-292-3373 or 1-800-748-1651
or E-mail: gshows@mbcb.org.

CONFERENCES:

PRESCHOOLER/CHILDREN

- Team Kids
- TEENAGERS
- Mini Centrifuge
- Craig Brown, Jackson
- Colonial Heights BC
- Jackson
- Minister of Students

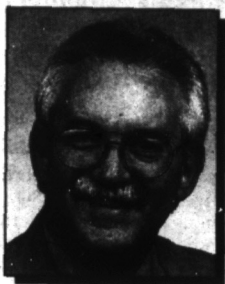
ADULT CONFERENCES

- Single Parenting
- James Haynes, FBC, Biloxi
- Couples
- Dwight and Kay Faulkenberry
- Philadelphia (Pathway Ministries)
- "Love Languages of God"
- Tom Prather, MBCB

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Mississippi native **Gary N. Nichols**, currently serving as associate director of the Florida Baptist Convention's Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Jacksonville, has been appointed to the Florida Commission of Marriage and Family by Florida Speaker of the House Johnnie Byrd. Nichols is a graduate of William Carey College, Hattiesburg, and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as minister of education at First Church, Long Beach, and Tylertown Church, Tylertown.



Nichols

Main Street Church, Mendenhall, honored **Dewitt and Annie Mitchell** with a retirement reception on June 29. Mitchell had served Main Street for 24 years. He also served churches in Simpson, Copiah, Bolivar, Holmes, and Hinds counties. Mitchell is available for supply and interim preaching and may be reached at (601) 847-5013.



Mitchell

Trinity Church, Philadelphia, ordained three additional deacons December 7. Pictured (from left) are Judy and Jim Bates, Trudy and Jerry Kings, Creosey and Willie H. Richardson, and Wayne T. Hill, pastor.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will present The Heisman in concert February 29 at 6:30 p.m. The Lovelace family, Burnsville, will also be appearing.

The **State Senior Adult Rally** will be held March 9 at Main

Street Church, Hattiesburg, beginning at 9 a.m. Featured at the program will be the senior adult choir of Lamar Association, Jon Stubblefield, Darrell Lindsey, Jane Earnest, MBCB, Glenn Shows, MBCB, the Glory Bound Trip, and Jim Futral, MBCB. All are welcome. For more information, call (601) 264-3897.

The **Stamps Quartet** will be in concert at Wynndale Church, Terry, February 22 at 6 p.m. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 371-2429.

Unity Church, Georgetown, will have a Leap Day Gospel Sing February 29 at 5 p.m. Hosanna and Freedomland Quartet will be the evening guests. A meal will follow. All are welcome.

Kevin Paul Ketchum was ordained to the ministry by Falkner Church, Falkner, December 7. Ketchum is a graduate of Blue Mountain College. Pictured (from left) are Stanley Huddleston, pastor of Falkner, and Ketchum.

Park Haven Church, Laurel, will present the gospel quartet Hosanna February 21 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

The **Providentials** will be in concert at Indian Springs Church, Petal, February 22 at 5 p.m. A love offering will be taken. A churchwide supper will follow. Everyone is invit-

ed to bring a covered dish and enjoy the service and fellowship. Brad Howard is pastor. For more information, call (601) 582-8886.

Springdale Church, West, is publishing their second cookbook. They are collecting recipes from any with ties with Springdale. Anyone interested in submitting a recipe online, may call (662) 289-1928 for information or send your recipes to: Springdale Cooks, c/o Martha Fleming, 2119 Attala Rd. #3015, West, MS 39192. Deadline for recipes is April 1.

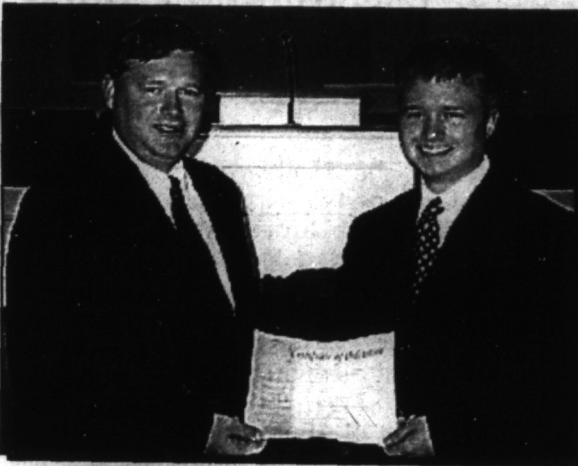
Kokomo Church, Kokomo, exceeded their \$700 goal for Lottie Moon. After the victory march on January 25 a total of \$1,650 had been collected. Lucille McManus is the WMU director. Glen Nace is pastor.

Shiloh Church, Foxworth, exceeded their \$800 Lottie Moon goal. Dot Campbell is the WMU director. Ralph Crawford is the interim pastor.

Providence Church, Tremont, celebrated 150 years October 19. Lynton Younger, pastor, presented a historical account of the community and church. Special music and lunch followed.

Calvary Church, New Augusta, will hold the annual

memorial service for the L. K. Turners March 14. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. The Turner Choir, Ann McSwain, and the Price Family, Moselle, will bring special music. Roland D. Turner will be the speaker. Dinner on the grounds will follow. The afternoon session begins at 1 p.m. with gospel singing. Steve Lloyd is pastor.



Huddleston, pastor & Ketchum



Deacons and Wives of Trinity Church, Philadelphia

The **GAs at Ackerman Church, Ackerman**, held a GAS 100th birthday party October 5. The party was held after the evening church service and all church members were invited.



GAs of Ackerman Church, Ackerman

Homecomings and Revivals

Macedonia, Louisville: Youth Revival Mar. 14-17; Sunday, 6 p.m. with a churchwide meal to follow; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Foles, evangelist; Terressa Ward, music; Harvie Jackson, pastor.

Centerville, Soso: Revival Feb. 23-26; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Tues.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. Bill Stafford, evangelist; Clain Roberts, music; John C. Hilbun, pastor.

Friendship, Aberdeen: Revival Feb. 22-25; Sunday, 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mon., 6:15 p.m. youth pizza; Tues., 6:15 p.m. kid's night; Tommy Cunningham, First, McGehee, Ark., preaching; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music evangelist. Todd Bowen, pastor.

Montevista, Eupora: Revival Mar. 14-17; Sunday 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Rob Faulk, South Louisville, Louisville, evangelist; Marlon Long, music; John Windell, pastor.

Hollandale, Hollandale: Revival Feb. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, MBCB, evangelist; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, music evangelists; Joseph B. Knight, pastor.

7:00 pm



7:00 pm

Praise & Worship
Christian Byrd and
SevenWaiting



Evangelist
Shawn Davis

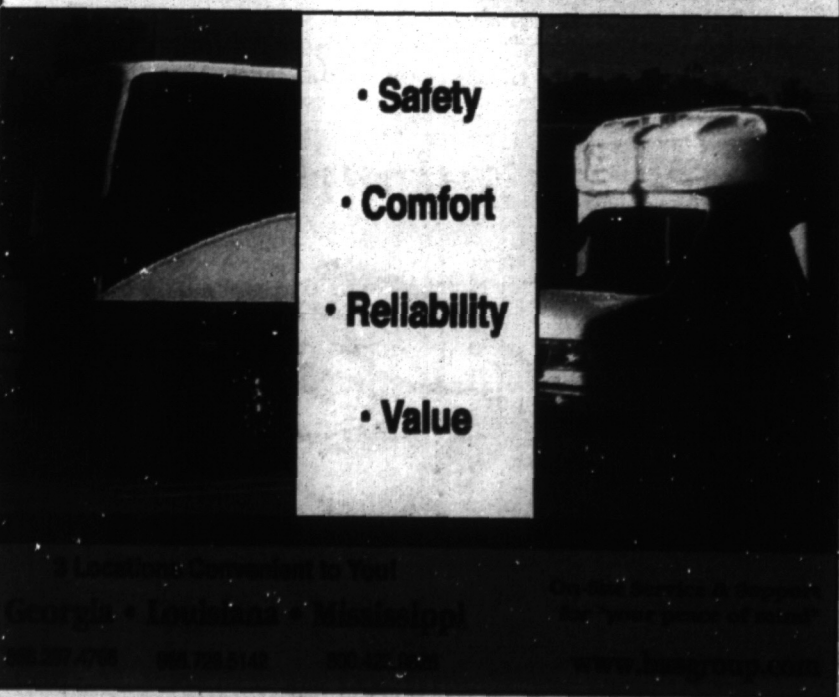
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Disciplined Giving

Malachi 3:6-12; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

By Ken Anderson

Thanks to the Hollywood film *The Lord of the Rings*, a new generation of Americans have been introduced to hobbits. J. R. R. Tolkien's fictional creatures inhabit Middle Earth and have a fondness for giving gifts. Instead of receiving gifts for their birthdays, hobbits have a tradition of giving gifts to other hobbits. Tolkien writes, "Every day in the year was somebody's birthday, so every hobbit in those parts had a fair chance of at least one present once a week." (Today in the Word, Spring 2002). Believers should likewise possess and demonstrate their fondness for giving. The Bible is replete with instructions that giving is a part of one's response to God. The focal passages emphasize this truth.

MALACHI 3:6-12:

Malachi declared that God's people were acute backsliders. Prior to the focal passage, Malachi revealed their contempt for the sacred (1:6-2:10) and their corruption of the priesthood (2:1-8). The problem of easy divorces and marriage to women of pagan religions was a further corruption (2:10-17). Even in this state, there was hope for repentance (3:7a). Yet their persistent condition as backsliders produced an obstinate spirit. They asked for evidence of their need to repent (7c). Malachi responded by declaring that they made a continuous practice of robbing God. The people responded asking how they robbed God. The answer was that they had robbed God of His tithes and offerings. Their unwillingness



Anderson

to repent was directly connected to the lack of tithing. Tithing would have been evidence of their repentance.

As a result of such fraud, the entire nation was cursed with a curse that would not be removed until genuine repentance was evident by bringing the tithe into the storehouse (vs. 9-10). The emphasis is not on a portion of the tithe but all of it. It was to be brought to the great chambers in the temple designed to store the offerings. In other words, they were to bring the entire tithe to the church, leading to the challenge to test God's intent and ability to bless them through their obedience (11-12).

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4:

The probable setting of these verses is Paul's response to the Corinthian church's question concerning participation in the offering for the Jerusalem saints. In response, Paul wrote a formula for disciplined stewardship. These verses contain

four principles of giving: the first, systematic giving. On the first day of the week (Sunday) believers were to worship, with the offertory being an integral part of the worship experience. The second is inclusive giving. The discipline of inclusive giving includes each person — the rich and poor, the educated and uneducated, etc. Thirdly, there is proportionate giving (as he may prosper). The requirement of giving is based in proportion to one's ability to give. Christ said, "For everyone to whom much is given; from him much is required: and to whom much had been committed, of him they will ask much." (Luke 12:48b) Lastly, there is administered wise giving. Delegates appointed by the church would take the gift to Jerusalem and if needed, Paul would be prepared to go. (Layman's Bible Book Commentary, p. 149)

INSIGHTS FROM THE TEXT:

It has been said that 15% of church members carry 85% of the church work, including financial

giving to the Lord's work. That means that 85% of church members only give 15%. Someone else said that one-third of church members give to support the Lord's work, another one-third look on, and the rest don't know what it is all about. It is clear that a stewardship revival is overdue in churches.

Deuteronomy 14:23 reveals that the objective of the tithe is to fear God. Therefore, the object of tithing is not the pastor, the church budget, or to pay the church's bills. One may give evidence of a disciplined Christian life but without genuine giving to God, that testimony is suspect.

Will giving to God be rewarded with His blessings for our lives? Brian Habour correctly said, yes. The yes is qualified by these three insights: First, the motive and style of the gift will determine the reward. Second, the rewards are spiritual, not material. Third, the rewards are most often promised in the life to come. (Brian's Lines, Vol. 3, No. 12)

Anderson is pastor emeritus of First Church, Saltillo.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

View Finances Wisely

Proverbs 22:4; 28:20; 16:16; 23:4-5; 30:7-9; 3:9-10; 11:28; 16:8; 28:6; 13:11; 15:27; 20:17; 21:6; 28:24; 22:16; 28:8

By Ann Maniscalco

Your Bible has much to say about your relationship with God. So does your checkbook. Nothing shows our life's priorities more clearly than the entries in that ledger. Why not take a moment right now to examine yours... is it revealing a proper priority of spiritual commitment? Or do many of the entries reveal an inordinate desire to accumulate things? Truly, God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment (1 Tim. 6:17 NIV), but we need also remember, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2 NKJV).

Because almost every area of our life and most of the decisions we make pertain

either directly or indirectly to money and finances, this book of wisdom (as well as hundreds of other Scriptures) is saturated with references exploring the subject. God wants us to have a clear view of His wise plan for financial wisdom.

WISE PERSPECTIVE (PROV. 22:4; 28:20; 16:16; 23:4-5; 30:7-9):

Two words that really shouldn't go together in a believer's conversation are "my money." If we see ourselves as owners rather than stewards of God's wealth, our perspective will be skewed. This section's verses show that money can come into our hands in abundance (22:4), but that it can also [make] wings for itself and [fly] like an eagle to the sky (23:5).

diverts our loyalty (23:5).

God searches our lives for such traits as humility, faithfulness, and wisdom — money cannot buy these. So what would be a proper financial perspective? Agur, the unknown author who penned chapter 30, considered himself the most ignorant of men (Prov. 30:2 NIV). However, he displayed keen insight into the danger of monetary excesses and deficits. He prayed for neither poverty nor wealth. One could lead to denial of God, the other to dishonoring Him (30:9).

WISE PURPOSE (PROV. 3:9-10; 11:28; 16:8; 28:6):

Exactly how inclusive is God's ownership? These Scriptures compile a list: He owns the land (Lev. 25:23), the

earth, and all it contains (Ps. 24:1), the silver and gold (Hag. 2:8), all souls (Ezek. 18:4), and our bodies (1 Cor. 6:19). That covers everything, doesn't it? Recognizing this should make us want to honor the Lord by surrendering control of our possessions and the first produce (Prov. 3:9) He deserves our best.

Trusting in riches will cause us to fall; trusting in God will cause us to flourish (11:28). Righteousness, not riches, brings the abundant life Jesus promised (John 10:10). The last two verses in this section confirm this. We should never sacrifice righteousness (16:8) and integrity (28:6) for dishonest gain. A good name is more desirable than great riches... (Prov. 22:1).

WISE PRACTICE (PROV. 13:11; 15:27; 20:17; 21:6; 28:24; 22:16; 28:8):

God is as concerned with how we earn money as with how we spend it. As a general rule, He takes care of our financial needs through work (13:11). Adam was put into the garden to tend it (Gen. 2:15); Eph. 4:28 (NKJV) tells the

believer to labor, working with his hands what is good...; Paul told the Thessalonians, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat" (2 Thess. 3:10 NIV).

Most of the verses in this section reveal ways people seek to accumulate wealth by taking advantage of others. Such people can expect to experience God's judgment. Their profits will dwindle (13:11), trouble will visit their home (15:27), the food they collect will be as pleasant as a mouthful of gravel (20:17), wealth gained will be like a vanishing mist (21:6), and God will take what they have procured through charging excessive interest and pass it on to the one who is kind to the poor (28:8).

Lesson reflections: Money must not become our god (Job 31:24-25,28). To avoid that happening, its our responsibility to keep it in the right perspective, thankfully receive it as a blessing from God, and earn it in ways that will honor Him. When we put Him first, He accepts the responsibility to meet our needs (Matt. 6:33 and Phil. 4:19).

Maniscalco is member of First Church, Ocean Springs.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Schiavo defenders get double win in court

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Terri Schiavo's parents won a reprieve Feb. 13 when an appellate court ruled twice in their favor on two separate legal issues regarding the ongoing case of the 40-year-old brain-damaged woman at the center of a national right-to-die debate.

Florida's 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled that the order by Pinellas Circuit Court Judge W. Douglas Baird barring Bush's attorney from deposing seven witnesses is not legal. The appellate court said Michael Schiavo "failed to demonstrate good cause for a blanket ban on the taking of depositions" and "may cause harm to the governor that will not be remediable on appeal from a final judgment."

The ruling granted Bush's petition and quashed a protective order entered by the circuit court, saying the circuit court entered the protective order without first resolving the arguments.

The appeals court also ruled that Judge Baird did not follow established rules when he denied a request that Robert and Mary Schindler be allowed to participate in the ongoing litigation between the governor and Michael Schiavo. The decision reversed the lower court's ruling and sent the case back to Judge Baird "for further proceedings."

Michael Schiavo, Terri's husband and legal guardian, has been in a bitter dispute with Terri's parents who believe she never received the therapy that would have allowed her to improve. Terri, who collapsed under unusual circumstances in 1990, has twice had her feeding tube removed and been left to die at her husband's request — last fall and once during the mid-1990s.

In the most recent instance, Bush ordered the feeding tube reinserted Oct. 21 after the Florida legislature in October passed a law narrowly crafted to save Terri Schiavo's life. Michael Schiavo, who has two children by a woman with whom he has lived for eight years, has since filed a lawsuit against Bush, challenging his intervention.

Bush's attorney had sought to take depositions from witnesses, including Michael Schiavo and his girlfriend, relating to Terri's medical care and end-of-life wishes.

The outcome of that action is pending while Judge Baird awaited the dissolution of these two motions and one other related to the case. The case is expected to end up before the Florida Supreme Court.

The Miami Herald reported that Bush said in a statement he is pleased with the rulings and believes the one to allow depositions "will provide us the opportunity to present questions we



DETERMINED PARENTS — Bob and Mary Schindler stand outside Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., where their comatose daughter, 39-year-old Terri Schiavo, has lived for over three years. The family is at the center of a national debate on the so-called right to die, with Terri's husband pressing to remove her feeding tubes and her parents fighting to keep Terri alive. (BP photo by Joni Hannigan)

believe are still open in this case."

"We are hopeful that when the judge hears these questions, he will allow us the opportunity to gather the facts necessary to defend the constitutionality of the statute," Bush said.

The Schindlers' attorney, Pat Anderson, told the Florida Baptist Witness she was "speechless" on learning of the court's ruling.

"It's the first time in the three years that I've worked on the case that just plain ordinary law has been applied to the facts," Anderson said. "These orders are not controversial, they are not a stretch — they are plain, ordinary, garden-variety law."

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), the firm which filed the motion to intervene on behalf of the Schindlers, told the Florida Baptist Witness it is pleased with the court's decision.

"The decision by the appeals court is encouraging and opens the door for Terri's parents to intervene directly in this critical case," said Jay Sekulow, ACLJ chief counsel. "This decision gives us one more opportunity to do what should have been done from the very start — permit Terri's parents to take a direct and active role in defending the state law that is the only thing keeping their daughter alive."

The Schindlers visited Terri on Valentine's Day at the Clearwater nursing home where she resides, bringing her red balloons with hearts and a small stuffed dog with a heart-shaped tag that reads "I love you."

"Terri likes balloons because they are bright, and she follows them around the room," Mary Schindler said.

Bibliocipher

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EI EOMCC BW TIZS VL

FOMF YILFO UIZFO IGF

IU BW BIGFO: NF

EOMCC AIF ZLFGZA GAFI

BL HINS, VGF NF

EOMCC MPPIBJCNEO

FOMF TONPO N JCLMEL,

MAS NF EOMCC JZIEJLZ

NA FOL FONAY TOLZLFI

N ELAF NF.

NEMNMO UNUFW-UNHL:
LCLHLA

Clue: J = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 22:6

MS Positions

BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING part-time music director. We are seeking someone that is spiritually called. Call Mrs. Carol Moore at (601) 544-1567 or send resume to 510 Maple Drive, Petal, MS 39465. Or Mrs. Annette Smith at (601) 264-6523 or send resume to 410 Lamar Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

CASTLEWOODS BAPTIST CHURCH in Brandon, MS is seeking a mature christian individual or couple to make a long-term commitment to serve as youth leader(s) on a bi-vocational basis. Please mail your resume to: 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047 or email paula@castlewoodsbaptist.com.

CROSS ROADS BAPTIST CHURCH, IN PELAHATCHIE, MS, is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Resumes should be sent to Cross Roads Baptist Church, 104 Crossroads Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145. For more information, call (601) 546-2267.

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MINISTER OF MUSIC - RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH in Jackson, MS, is prayerfully seeking an individual for the full-time position of Minister of Music. Resumes and applications should be mailed to: personnel committee, Raymond Road Baptist Church, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Rev. Tommy Anthony is pastor.

CHILDREN/YOUTH DIRECTOR: local Methodist church in need of children/youth director. Duties include Wednesday and Sunday night activities, in addition to planning summer Bible school program. Salary negotiable based upon experience and qualifications. Send resume to Joe Lofton, 912 Fox Run Road, Meridian, MS 39305.

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